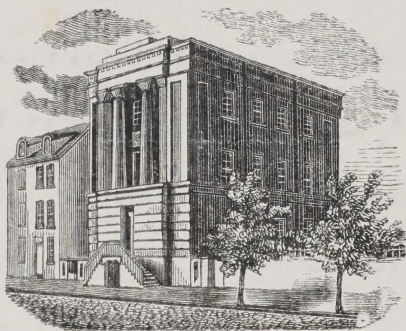


AN ESSAY ON
Yellow Fever, and its Origin

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF PENNSYLVANIA,

On the 29th day of January, Eighteen Hundred and
Fifty-six.

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no \$30,

That which we call "Yellow fever" is a remarkable variety of the "Synocical" type. It is a singular fact also that it has been referred to all kinds of continued fever except the "Mucos".

In the examination of this disease, I shall briefly enquire. What are its symptoms? What is its cause? In what manner is it propagated? Can we prescribe a Specific treatment? And are there any means for its prevention.

'Symptoms' — The disease is divided into 3 Stages, all of which usually obtain, at times however, the patient may recover having suffered but from the First, again I have seen the Second often terminate in Death, even under the most judicious treatment. The accession of the Fever is usually sudden; its victim being taken with the most violent symptoms, even in the midst of health

in many cases however, we observe presence of signs, such as spontaneous lassitude, loss of memory, and joined to this will be one or more of the following symptoms, pulse feeble - slow - disappearing under the finger or frequent - small, or intermitting, Skin, hot and dry or cold and covered with a clammy moisture features distorted, mournfull air, assumed gaiety, lips pale and livid, tongue red, and dry, or at times, white, moist, and tremulous, general nervousness, palpitation of the Heart, tremor of the limbs &c. — This state may continue for 10 or 12 hours after which it is resolved into the "First stage" of "Yellow fever"

We now have complete prostration intense pain in the Head — over the eyes at the Occiput (as from a blow,) in the bottom of the orbits, every motion of the eyes, pain in the neck, back, Loins, and knees At times the attack is ushered in by a chill,

with rigors, succeeded by intense and burning
fever, the skin is dry, red, and sensitive,
tremendous congestion of all the membranes
especially the conjunctival (I have even seen
it yellow in this stage) The patient is now
alarmed, he weeps, groans, and entreats assis-
tance, the tongue on its borders is covered
with a yellow, or black, deposit. the teeth are
often coated with the same material.
He at length complains of pain, and heat,
in the Epigastrium, which is tense, and
painful on pressure, burning tructations
and nausea now appears soon to be followed
by vomiting (this is provoked by drink)
with unquenchable thirst - up to this
time there has been constipation, but
now abundant alvine discharges indicate
a crisis in the 'Stage' and the symptoms
abate.

This period occupies from the 4 days, the

interval between the "First" and "Second stage" is modified by the circumstances of each case it is ordinarily from 12 to 18 hours.

The "Second stage" is the first intensified in its symptoms, with the partial or complete omission of the fever and the addition of the jaundiced skin, suppression of the urine, fetid breath (which smells like urine) and the delirium.

This stage may last from 24 to 48 hours, and the remission which follows is from 1 to 5 days (in rare cases it is even 2 weeks) during which time the strength returns to a great extent, the appetite is ravenous, and the thirst intense.

The Third stage is that of the "Black vomit," in addition to the black substance thrown up (and passed often times by the rectum) we find a similar material oozing from the Tongue, Eyes &c.

Arms, Vagina, and Urethra, the secretions
having a putrid character pass spontaneously,
flies collect, the face becomes shriveled
and all signs indicate present dissolution.
In some the Testicles swell, Carbuncles
malignant. Pustules, and Bubbles make
their appearance, Nature (with now almost
exhausted) concentrates all her energies into the
most fearful Scurium, to make one ghastly
desperate leap - and all is over. There is no
death so fearful to witness as that from
'Yellow fever,' the entire duration of an
attack from this disease is from 4 to 15
days.

I come now to its origin and
cause. I believe that the peculiar malarial
influence, which produces this malady
is generated on the "West coast of Africa"
in which place it is found in its most
complete form. (On the arguments to support

this Theory I think I am alone, the poison
being generated in the place just men-
tioned on account of being as all impu-
rities are, indisposed to unite with the
"Atmospheric air", passes up into, and
forms part of, the "Upper strata" of the "At-
mosphere" - The Trade winds in passing
from 'South-East' to 'North-West' bring it to
our shores, but although it is over us it is still
harmless, it is necessary that it should
be brought down, the clouds, and storms,
furnish this requirement, and wherever it
is thus brought down (the temperature
permitting) it is capable of deoxidizing it-
self, It acts "Symply" or otherwise on the
surrounding Air or "Malaria" and thus
produces, as well as spreads the contagion.

In proof of this Theory we see
that the Siccare is a migratory one, passing
from, and to, a given point, we find it also more

malignant, the nearer we are on its western
course, to its eastern point of origin, and on
its return track, the nearer we come to its start-
ing place, the less marked is it, till it is at
length lost. Thus we find the disease more
on the "coast of Africa" than on the "Atlantic
ocean" more there, than in the "West Indies"
and perceptibly growing less, and less in violence
as we pass the Atlantic coast, "Pacific coast" and
"Pacific Islands", till we at length trace it
to "Madagascar" and the "East coast of Africa"
where we may say it is lost. That it is car-
ried by the air, is I think established. For
ships sailing from northern ports often
suffer from "Yellow fever". We must conclude
it to be propelled in the air by the "Trade winds"
for ships at sea never take the disease out
of the trade winds this is also confirmed
by the uniform direction of the disease cor-
responding with that of the "Trade" currents

whilst the decrease of the Malaria, from and
to a given point, proves that point, to be its
place of origin.

It is I think easy to explain
why the disease is often found at 'Gibraltar'
'Rio Janeiro' and other places, out of the track of
the Trade winds, we know that there is a
constant coast current, flowing up and
down the 'American' and 'African' shores,
this does the same for the places out of the
ordinary track, as the Trade winds do for us.

It was never seen North of 45° N. Latitude
nor south of 35° S. Latitude, it is said never
to have crossed a chain of Mountains, which
fact in connection with another that it will
as it leaves the valley ~~it will~~ rapidly pass up
the Mountain, infecting all this side and even
the top, while ~~even~~ the other side will remain
untouched, A British fortress on the top of
a hill 700 feet high always suffers when the

disease is passing off from the Cities of the
coast below, in this case, ^{Committed to mention} it is only when the
wind is in the proper direction, and then
only for a few days, prove that it is carried by
the "Atmosphere", and that its tendency is to the
Upper strata. It is never seen off the Sea coast,
or large Rivers, showing that it is favoured by
circumstances.

We know that it is not carried
by the "Atmospheric Air", because that Gas
free itself from all impurities, the upper
strata is the point to which it passes, and the
proof is that it will pass from one City over others,
and attract, another hundreds of miles distant
the Cities passed having all the prerequisites
to maintain the contagion, for in other
seasons, they are affected, and the ones now
suffering, are passed untouched. If it is
carried in the "Atmospheric Air", all things else
being equal the results must be similar.

In proof, that it is brought down by clouds, and
storms, every observer will testify (although it
has never been seen to be raised till by myself that
I know of) we all know that during the pre-
sence of the 'Yellow fever' it rains or storms
every day or nearly so, the rains occur in the
afternoon, the disease is worse to morrow
after a rain, and $\frac{3}{4}$ of those who die, - die
at night, almost all who take the disease,
feel its first influence after a storm,
if we have 3 or 4 days, clear weather the
Malaria always abates, and if it continues for
2 or 3 weeks, it will entirely disappear.

The poison once down infects the Malaria
exhaling from decomposition, but if the
supply of poison be cut off we find the 'Mala-
ria' seeking its own level high in the sky,
having no connection with influences which
render it destructive, Malaria acts as a
center to which the poison when down, returns

for some time. Thus it is a promoter
but not a cause of this disease. If a
cause, why does not the disease follow
'Malarious' districts all things being equal?
The marshy pees shores of 'Cochin' and
'Malabar' in 'India' the coast of 'Siam'
and the 'Irrawaddy' of 'Burmah' and the
'Lowlands' of the 'Nile', if any thing be un-
true, surely ought to suffer, for they all have
the prerequisites which medical Philoso-
phers have pronounced to cause the disease.

Now come to the manner
of its Propagation, I answer that it
is through the medium of this vilest
'Atmosphere' and by no other means.
All persons contain within their
own systems the seeds of the disease,
alike, during the prevalence of an Epidem-
ic, this predisposition, only wants a circum-
-stance favouring its development.

We are told that it is contagious, in proof they
say that the nurses and friends of those who
have 'Yellow fever' often take the disease, and
see. I answer true, but what is more cap-
able of awaking the seeds of disease in the
system, (by destroying the natural forti-
fication) than excitement, fear, sympathy, dread,
horror, and a shock, as severe as must be the
sight of Scall in this its most horrid of
forms, Ships cannot bring it from afar,
for every reason, cases of 'Yellow fever' come
from infected Ports to those of our own
immediate vicinity, still we do not suffer,
the fuel must be in a Place, before it can be
ignited, and in all cases, and left the previous
condition has obtained, the Disease in spite
of importations can never become 'Epidemic'
some few might indeed die, from the exhal-
ations from the dead bodies, fugitives perhaps
into a large town) but hear it much of —

neceſſary, if it were like "Small Pox" one
can might breed a plague, but we find
that this diſeaſe, requires for its develop-
ment, its own peculiar conditions.

Does it require a 'Specific
Treatment' as many Physicians have ſaid?
I answer not unequivocally, No. Specific
Treatment may do well enough for a man
who has no brain, or an ill-ſpoken, who regards
the ſtomach as a mere crible and the Human body
as a mere complicated machine, but I must
confess I was chagrined when I saw men
calling themselves "Homoeopathic" physicians
laying down rules and infallible medicines
for the treatment of "Yellow fever", these rules and
drugs may have been "Homoeopathic" in their instance
but can they say it will be so again, no rule can
be laid down, symptoms alone must decide
on the remedy, each case of the same Epidemic
and in the same locality is peculiar to itself, varying

with the amount and quality of the poison in
action, the Age, Habits, Temperament, and Idiosyn-
crasy of the patient, &c. are modifications of this
disease in the same locality in all respects
alike. Thus the "Fever" of '53 in New Orleans
differed from that of '55 in the same City
the "Fever" of '52 in Charleston was unlike
that of '54. Again different localities present
varieties for the same period, as the fever of '53
in New Orleans could not be treated with the
same remedies that were successful in
Norfolk for the same year. Seeing this the
Specific theory is worse than Madness, it
is a legitimate child of Quackery, & it is
in all its ears and must be judged to the same
humiliation of defeat.

I at length ask for the means
(if any) of preventing this terrible scourge?
There is no direct means of preventing it
although much can be done to modify it

Keep our Cities free from "Malaria", since
we see that it promotes the spread of the
poison, by being organized, thus of itself
becoming as potent as the original element.

It has been advised for all families to keep
fires in their dwellings in the Summer time,
this precaution has been tried and it will
not keep away disease, but it will I doubt
not act well as a modifier of the "Malaria",
which is a supporter of the poison - instead
of the poison itself, as they who advised this
plan supposed, they expected therefore too much
from the drying process in the Houses. I think
it will modify, but not prevent the disease.

The Quarantine has been found a useless
in warding off diseases of this character,
it has therefore been abandoned, by the exper-
-iences. Prophylactic may be advised by some,
and I think with reason, I think that the
Surg best suited to the treatment of that -

Particular visitation of the Sore would
be usefull as a Prophylactic, I can conceive
how it can act, antidoting the poison in
the system, the seeds of the Sore, by
meeting the predisposition to the Malady.
Prophylactics cannot act but under the Law
'Sanctio' and, unless the Sore corresponds to
the Sore or its predisposition, it is not
a Remedy, and we are inserting the genius
of Homoeopathy to call it such.

This is a Sore of
which I have seen much, and am satis-
fied that divested of crutches, in the shape
of other mens experience, and armed with
our Materis Medica and its weapons,
we must conquer, our Law is perfect, the
Law did I say, God Law it is as immutable
as its creator, as complete, as it is infinite,
as as part as the Universe of the Eternal,
Why then, do we not confide in it. It is the

shame of our Science in the South that we
cannot cure "Yellow fever" without "Snake-tooth"
and "Mustard", It can be done, is done, and
our Law is only deviated from by they who do
not understand it, Birds of weak wing,
and weaker Eyes, who are dazzled by the beams
of the great Law, then look back to the Earth
again, their Heads become dizzy, and after most
uneasily fluttering they fall to the great
benefit of the Profession, The cure of Yellow
fever by the present generation of Homeopaths
will be the greatest Medical triumph on record,
it will then be complete, When we recall to
mind, after so many dark Ages wherein
the huge overshadowing train of "Empiricism",
swept every star from out the Medical firmament,
how the bright, and blissful Law of cure struck
through the black, and settled Night of Igno-
rance, and tyranny, shaking with irresistible
might the rottenness of Systems, It is not to

be marvelled, that a sovereign, and reviving, joy,
should rush into the bosom of every true
Homoeopath, and that the sweet odor of the
dawning 'Medical Millennium' should in-
fuse our souls with freedom, and delight.

